

**Minutes of Old Marston Parish Council Open Meeting With the Parish
To Discuss Proposed New Pavillion at Boults Lane
Tuesday, 18th January 2011**

Present:-

Approx 80 people from inside and outside the Parish

Meeting Chaired by Charlie Haynes, Chairman to Old Marston Parish Council

Representatives of Marston Saints – Ian Homer and Eddie Aldworth

Charlie Haynes (CH) welcomed those in attendance and introduced those at the table – Ian Homer, Eddie Aldworth from Marston Saints, and Parish Clerk, Kate Stratford.

This meeting has been advertised in Marston Times (delivered to every residence in the parish) and via Parish Council noticeboards, in local shops and in the Oxford Mail.

There had previously been a public meeting in November 2005. Following that meeting, drainage works have been carried out at Boults Lane Recreation Ground as this had been proposed and agreed at that meeting. The field now drains well. The resolution at that meeting in November 2005 was:

“1. To proceed with the drainage work necessary to bring Boult's Lane recreation ground up to a standard consistent with that which would be required for a future grant towards a new pavilion.

2. Following such work, planning should continue with a view to replacing the pavilion by 2008, subject to a further Parish meeting.”

Eddie Aldworth (EA) gave a brief history of the club. Marston Saints was established over 40 years ago. It is a Football Association Development Charter Club. Over 200 children are members. Run by unpaid volunteers, all are CRB checked, all coaches as a minimum have FA Level 1 Coaching qualification, including Safeguarding Children and First Aid (both separately accredited). There are 2 dedicated child welfare officers and the club offers football from juniors right through to adult, both male and female teams. Thanks to the Parish Council's previous investment, Boults Lane is one of the best community pitches in the city.

CH reported that the current pavilion is in a bad state. The hope is to move it to where the play area is now, and to move and upgrade the play area. Where the pavilion is currently located will become additional parking. A Steering Group was set up and have held several meetings with the Football Foundation. Plans have been drawn up (and were displayed at the meeting). Sports Solutions GB carried out a funding review for the steering group, which was very helpful.

Design requirements for the proposed new building were agreed. Planning permission was granted in May 2009, although there were some conditions to the permission.

10 letters were sent to local builders. There were 6 who replied with costings to build the new pavilion. Prices ranged for £445,000.00 to £880,000.00, so there were big differences.

EA explained that when we contacted builders we only asked for budget costings. These could not be exact because we didn't have a time frame (because there isn't the money yet), also a building like the proposed new pavilion takes a lot of mechanical and electrical design, and we didn't want to pay for this until funds have been secured. The Steering Group continues to take advice from SSGB.

CH reported that the pavilion was discussed at Parish Council in November 2010, and the resolution was passed supporting the pavilion, on condition that funds are raised. As the Parish Council has reasonable reserve funds, the Parish Council is going to put £75,000.00 towards the build as long as a loan of £200,000.00 is secured. A group called the Public Works Loans Board specialises in lending to Parish Councils, and we will be approaching them for a loan. The Parish Council's resolution of November 2010 reads:

"The Parish Council is in agreement that the current Pavilion requires replacement. The Parish council is minded to invest £75,000.00 and obtain a loan/mortgage for £200,000.00, subject to successful raising of grants funds for the remainder of the cost and following consultation at a public meeting of the parish"

Rates are changing at the moment, but on a 25 year loan, approximately £13,000.00 paid half-yearly would need to be paid back to them if a loan was secured. The next step would be to go out to organisations to raise money. As long as the steering group has a letter of intent, they can go to Sports Solutions GB to try and raise funds. BUT if the money can not be raised, the new pavilion will not go ahead. Marston Saints raised approx £3,500.00 last year, which doesn't sound like much, but was the result of lots of hard work by volunteers from the club.

There is no Plan B.

The pavilion belongs to the Parish Council. If the new pavilion goes ahead, the facilities will be available for the entire parish. A management committee will be formed, and any volunteers will be gratefully received.

The Parish Council and Marston Saints are aware of parking issues (particularly around Horseman Close area) and are in discussions with the police and county council to try to resolve.

The meeting opened out to the floor for any questions.

Q1: What is the timescale?

CH: Once we have the go ahead, the PC meeting on 2nd February will move things forward. Hope to have completed within two years.

IH: Hope to complete within 18 months.

EA: Before planning consent expires in May 2012.

Q2: I've not seen the plans, what are the materials to be used, is this to be a permanent building?

CH: The building will be permanent, and built with brick.

EA: Also hope the building will be sustainable. Would like to incorporate lots of renewable energies to make the running of the building cheaper.

There were no other questions.

CH invited those who live in the parish to vote, and reminded those who live outside the parish that they were not eligible to vote.

Parishioners were asked Should the Parish Council move ahead with raising funds to get the proposed new pavilion built.

60 – in favour.

None – against.

No abstentions.

The meeting closed at 8:05pm